REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are in the application and stand ready for action on the merits.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-15 and 18-33 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 12-18 and 1-11 respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,183,786.

* Applicants submit the enclosed terminal disclaimer, disclaiming any portion of the term of a patent issuing on the instant application that might otherwise extend beyond the expiration of U.S. patent 6,183,786.

Hyperlink Reference

The applicant has deleted the hyperlink reference in the specification as requested by the Examiner and replaced it with a citation to the database where the article is located.

DAIRYLP and CNCPS

The present application does not contain any claims wherein DAIRYLP or CNCPS software is specifically cited.

Based on the instant amendments and the attached terminal disclaimer, it is Applicant's understanding that all claims as currently pending are in condition for allowance.

Any other charges or overpayment should be applied to deposit account 19-1345.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ARK/leb
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, has been amended as follows:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/033,095, filed June 15, 1999, **which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,183,786,** which is a continuation **[application]** of U.S. Application No. 08/900,414, filed July 25, 1997, now Patent No. 6,017,563, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, has been amended as follows:

- - Optimizing milk production in ruminants requires matching the nutritional requirements of the ruminant with least cost sources from available feed ingredients. In recent years, several computer models have been developed for this purpose; these models enable a dairy nutritionist to predict the methionine and other nutrient requirements for high milk producing dairy cows and to formulate a feed ration using least cost sources. Two of the more well known models are the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS) and the University of Pennsylvania DAIRYLP program. See, Fox, D.G., Using Computer Models in Extension to Develop More Profitable Feeding Systems, **The National Dairy Database, June 1992 [Internet Text Address: HTTP://www.inform.umd.edu]**; Galligan, D.T., J.D. Ferguson, C.F.Ramberg, Jr. and W. Chalupa. 1986. Dairy Ration Formulation and Evaluation Program for Microcomputers. J.Dairy Sci. 69:1656; Galligan, D.T., C.F. Ramberg, Jr., W. Chalupa

and J.D. Ferguson. 1989. J.Dairy Sci. 72:suppl 1):445. In general, the computer models use input data such as animal type, body weight, fat test, milk production level, environmental conditions, nutrient composition of available feeds, feed cost, and rumen bypass rates for degradable protein and amino acid sources. From this information, the models formulate a least cost feed ration which accurately meets the ruminant's nutritional requirements to support the desired level of milk production from available sources which typically will include corn, soy, alfalfa, vitamins, minerals, molasses, fat sources, amino acid sources, undegradable intake protein, and a variety of other feedstuffs.